

The June meeting for AYHSC was held on June 9th, 2016 from 5:30-7:00pm at the Arlington Senior Center, Mural Room.

**In Attendance:**

**Adults:** Karen Dillon, Mary Kowalcuk, Ivy Laplante, Austin Styffe, Joe Curro, Mike Leach, Colleen Leger and Carlene Newell

**Students:** Catie Blair, Julie Powers, Sana Mohtadi, Cooper Schoenthaler and Megan Laurendeau

**Welcome/ Introductions:**

Student Advisors and community members all introduced themselves and shared their respective roles in our community.

**May Meeting minutes:** Julie Powers moved to approve, Catie Blair seconded; all approved the May meeting minutes.

**Student Coalition Updates**

Julie Powers will be the AHS Student Intern for the Coalition. She will focus on a social norms campaign and help with Coalition projects including Project Purple, Sticker Shock and an after prom party.

**SAP-C Grant Updates**

Ivy and Karen continue to attend monthly meetings and are working with the BSAS cluster on a strategic plan to reduce underage drinking in our respective communities. The cluster is focusing on ease of access and perception of harm issues. There is an emphasis on "communities favor use" pertaining to underage drinking.

Three areas we are focusing on reducing/eliminating:

- 1) Community attitudes and practices that are favorable to underage drinking.
- 2) Youth have easy access to alcohol (fake IDs, older siblings that purchase etc..)
- 3) Unrealistic perception of harm which results in increased usage rates.

**Project Updates**

**YRBS Results:** We are hoping to present results of YRBS to parents and students of AHS in September.

**Call for Volunteers:** Next year's projects are numerous. Ivy is asking Coalition members to work within specific groups addressing specific issues such as: parent outreach, tabling at events, community events etc. Ideally we would identify the topic areas and have an online sign up.

**HRC Camp:** June 28th to 30th for youth 1st-6th grade. Ivy met with other sector representatives to tighten the structure of the camp and improve security and fun for the children. On the AYHSC day a magician will present "Boss of My Body". We are looking for volunteers for a 9:15 start time on Wed. June 29th.

**Ruth Potee:** Scheduled on October 20th at OMS. A few Coalition members suggested moving it to the AHS auditorium and developing an Eventbrite sign up.

**School Conduct Policy:** Make ramifications consistent across school including clubs, athletics etc. We have to be careful not to double penalize kids who are both athletes and creative (music, art).

A coalition member asked about the consequences for kids that are not involved in extracurriculars. The policy certainly has to be fine tuned. Also, what are consequence alternatives that do not involve police?

A coalition member urged us to consider positive sanctions and worries about measures that removes youth from beneficial activities to anti-substance use behavior.

One of the Student advisors attends a private school and we asked if she knew her school policy for these situations. She said her school uses suspension.

The strength of the framework is that it is a deterrent to group activities enforces peer support and role model behaviors.

**SBIRT:** Policy is in place to screen all 7th graders at Ottoson. A student asked if SBIRT screens for depression and we informed them it screens for substance abuse exclusively, but opens the door to other treatment opportunities for other risk behaviors.

**OPAC Newsletter:** Karen has received approval to submit monthly updates to the OPAC newsletter. This is great news and continues our effort to be recognized by and able to help the Ottoson community.

**Community Update - "What's happening in Arlington?"**

Photos of vandalism, litter and piles of empty alcohol containers from Turkey Hill were distributed. They were submitted to the Coalition Director by a community member. Coalition members talked about what new programs can be done to avert these kinds of gatherings from happening. Coalition members agreed in order to encourage enforcement of underage drinking laws, the Diversion program needs to be better recognized in Town as a fair and good alternative to consequences for risk behavior.

**Meeting Adjournment 7:00 pm**

Next Coalition Meeting - September 1, 2016 at 5:30pm at the Whittemore Robbins House.